THE SUNDAY JOURNAL

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 1897.

Washington Office---1503 Pennsylvania Avenue

Telephone Calls.

Business office.......238 | Editorial rooms....A 86

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

DAILY BY MAIL.

Daily only, one month....................$ .70
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Daily only, one year.....................8.00
Daily, including Sunday, one year........10.00
Sunday only, one year....................2.00

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JOURNAL NEWSPAPER COMPANY,
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Persons sending the Journal through the mails in the United States should put on an eight-page paper a ONE-CENT postage stamp; on a twelve or sixteen-page paper a TWO-CENT postage stamp. Foreign postage is usually double these rates.

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THE INDIANAPOLIS JOURNAL.

Can be found at the following places:
NEW YORK—Windsor Hotel and Astor House.

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==Sixteen Pages==

One of the defects of the Bryan lecture tour which caused its failure was the box-office attachment.

If, with the old year, a few persons like Corbett and Fitzsimmons could have gone out as permanently, the new year would be somewhat happier to many.

In "unctuous rectitude" Cecil Rhodes, of Transvaal fame, has added to the language a phrase which can be applied wherever the descendant of the Pharisee can be found.

Mr. W. E. Curtis, a Washington correspondent, feels authorized to say that the President-elect approves the action of Mr. Cleveland in placing so many officials under the cover of the civil-service law.

The case of the Cherokee Indian who obtained a fraudulent divorce from his white wife in order to marry another woman should encourage those who contend that the red man can be induced to adopt the civilization of the white man.

It is reported that a woman in Philadelphia who has been a kleptomaniac has been permanently cured by a surgical operation. The surgeons have not yet reported the nature of the operation, but if it simply involves the amputation of her fingers the cure is not a discovery worth mentioning.

During the past few years it has been asserted that the horse is passing because of the change to electricity by street railways, the introduction of the bicycle and other innovations. And now comes the census man of Massachusetts showing that there were 3,085 more horses in that State last year than in 1890. It looks as though the noble animal might hold his own, even against the predicted horseless carriage.

A Boston paper of hitherto Anglomaniac tendencies is inclined to be facetious because the President-elect's inaugural suit will be made from American materials. Not only did General Harrison take the oath of office in a suit of colthes made from home-made material, but George Washington is reported to have done the same thing. Many people will regard it as a bit of healthy American sentiment on the part of these Presidents and the President-elect.

"There is no refuge from confession but suicide, and suicide is confession," said Daniel Webster in a murder trial. The statement would seem to apply to the financial career of W. A. Hammond, who committed suicide in Chicago yesterday. His operations as vice president of the National Bank of Illinois were such as must have led inevitably to exposure, disgrace and punishment, and, that being the case, suicide was the natural end. It is also confession.

If some of the fifty first citizens of Lexington, Mo., who lynched two men who are now known to have been innocent of the crime which the mob charged them with could be tried and convicted of murder, it would have a salutary influence upon those who find excuse for mob law. As the prosecuting attorney has sufficient evidence to convict fifty of those who participated in the crime, his duty seems to be clear unless he believes that lynching is defensible.

The Chicago papers published yesterday the records of the notorious aldermen of that city as made up by the Municipal League. It is a very disgraceful showing, and no one record is more disreputable than that of Alderman Madden, who is now a candidate for United States senator. His friends made a strenuous effort to prevent the publication, but, after they had called for specifications to sustain the general charge of corruption made against him they have no ground of complaint.

The new State census of Michigan shows that foreign-born voters outnumber those of native birth in twenty-five cities and in thirty-two counties of the State. In some of the smaller cities foreign-born voters outnumber the natives more than two to one. In Detroit the excess of foreign born is 10,063. To summarize, in the incorporated cities of the State one-half, and in the country outside the cities one-third of the males of voting age are foreign born. Yet Michigan is a well-governed and prosperous State.

Almost anybody can tell what happened in 1896, but London's leading astrologer attempts to foretell the great events of 1897. He predicts startling political upheavals and changes, including the end of Turkey in June, the desolation of Spain in December, with royal troubles and earthquakes, famine and war distributed throughout the year. The only distinct reference to the United States, and really the most surprising prediction of all is that in July "Philadelphia will be the scene of exciting occurrences." This is quite incredible.

The sensational dispatch to a New York paper from Madrid concerning an alleged conspiracy on the part of President Cleveland and Secretary Olney to re-establish Spanish rule in Cuba probably has no foundation in fact. Mr. Cleveland has faults, but his recent record shows he is not lacking in Americanism, and Mr. Olney is as little so. Mr. Cleveland was led by a former secretary of state, who acted from petty and jealous motives, into a most mistaken policy regarding Hawaii, and it is not at all likely he would repeat it toward Cuba. The story of the Madrid correspondent is not credible.

REFUGE IN SUICIDE.

The papers are full these days of accounts of the suicide of men of whom braver things might have been expected. Within three days have been noted the self-destruction of Mr. Wasmandorff, a Chicago banker who had suffered financial loss through the failure of the National Bank of Illinois; of the president of an Alabama bank, of a prominent Duluth business man who had become too deeply involved in speculation; of Mr. McCullagh, editor of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, because of ill health, and, latest, of the suicide of the vice president of the National Bank of Illinois. All of these men were of high intelligence and of a standing in the community that would lead the public to expect of them sufficient strength of character to resist this particular form of temptation. It is not until the test comes that the strength or weakness of the individual is disclosed, however, and these men succumbed under the first blow of adverse fate. In one or two of the cases mentioned disgrace was impending owing to their unlawful money transactions, yet not one of the men concerned but had lived long enough to know that the world easily condones offenses of this sort if the perpetrator shows nerve and a willingness to establish himself again upon an honest basis. Not one of them but had seen hundreds of other men, reduced from affluence to poverty, begin again courageously at the foot of the ladder and once more climb to the top. Even when financial success was not won by these strugglers they did secure the respect of their fellow-men, and, above all, retained their self-respect. Poverty is not the worst thing in the world, as even those who have possessed wealth may have reason to know. Disgrace, through a loss of personal integrity, may be, but the man who sees this valley of humiliation open before him only emphasizes his sin and cowardice by laying a greater burden of sorrow and shame upon his family through his suicide. It is held by some charitable people that the man who takes his own life is not sane, and it is doubtless true that the mind of such a one is not of normal serenity, but all the men mentioned here undoubtedly went about the work of self-destruction with as deliberate purpose as they would undertake any other act of their lives. There may have been a degree of excitement, there may have been dread, there must have been despair and recklessness, but they were not insane in the ordinary acceptance of the word. They simply found life hard to bear and resolved to try what lay beyond.

Mr. McCullagh had meditated on the subject of suicide before, as most men do at times, and like most men had condemned it as a method of escape from present evils. Writing upon this theme three or four years ago, after the suicide of a personal friend, he said: "The reasons assigned for suicide in most instances are obviously inadequate both logically and morally. They pertain usually to those stings and arrows of fortune which are a part of the general experience of life and which countless thousands of people are constantly enduring without a thought of self-destruction. There are emergencies, of course, in which it may easily seem to a man of sensitive or melancholy organization that he has outlived his usefulness and that the best thing he can do is to quit the world when he has become superfluous, if not burdensome, but the darkness of such situations is apt to be exaggerated even in the worst cases."

He touches, too, upon a truth not always considered in such cases, namely, the secret springs action. "We cannot be sure," he says, "that the reasons given for these self-killings are the only moving considerations. The heart knoweth its own bitterness and does not always reveal the whole story of trial, defeat and misery. There are secrets and mysteries in the matter that we cannot understand. But the supreme fact remains that a surrender to sinister forces in any stress of misfortune is a grave mistake and a violation of solemn duty." Then he adds with a spirit of faith and a readiness to defy fate: "Things are happily so ordered in the scheme of the universe that there is another chance for every one who fails. It is not necessary to give up because fate refuses to be propitiated in our favor at a particular time or for a particular purpose. We are not obliged to yield our right to existence because it is mocked by interposing disaster and sorrow. The true and manly course is to go on trying for success in spite of all drawbacks and disappointments. That is what we are placed here for, and we cannot afford to do otherwise. The plea of despair, in short, is not a valid one where the opportunity of further effort is provided, and the hope of final triumph is not taken away while life remains."

These are manly words, yet when illness touched him and he feared that his usefulness was ended he forgot the solemn duty he had preached, he forgot that time might afford him another chance, and he threw a shadow upon the admirable successes and triumphs of his life by casting that life away. He was said to be an admirer of General Grant, but he did not profit by that hero's example. When Grant was threatened by poverty, when his enemies tried to cast discredit upon his integrity, when he suffered from an incurable and terrible disease he did not see in suicide a refuge, but smiled in the teeth of fate and performed a labor of love under conditions that made him one of the noblest figures of all the ages. His course was a lesson to all who find life hard. Fortunately, it is but the few who weakly surrender to the evil forces. The temptations resisted are not all known, and the multitude of men to whom fate is unkind endure bravely to the end.

VOTERS IN INDIANA AND MICHIGAN.

The secretary of state of Michigan has issued advance sheets of a bulletin based on the last state census, which contains some facts that bear incidentally on the recent discussion concerning the alleged excessive vote in this State. Our total vote, be it remembered, was 637,284, and the point has been made that this could not be honest because it exceeded by 47,000 the total voting population of the State in 1890, as shown by the census. Indiana and Michigan furnish a fair basis of comparison in this matter because the last census gave them nearly the same population, Indiana having 2,192,404 and Michigan 2,093,889. **By this showing Indiana should have had more voters in 1890 than Michigan, but** the table of males of twenty-one years of age gave Indiana 595,066 and Michigan 617,445. Either Indiana was given too few voters in proportion to its entire population or Michigan was given too many. Comparing from another point of view the estimated population of Indiana in 1895 was 2,406,504 and that of Michigan was 2,241,500, showing Indiana 165,004 ahead in population and presumably ahead in voters. The latest enumeration of voters in this State for apportionment purposes showed 627,000. Now the state census of Michigan returns the number of males of voting age as 651,920, or about 25,000 more than was claimed for this State in 1895. If Michigan, with a total population last year of 2,241,500, has 651,920 voters this year, surely there is nothing surprising in the fact that Indiana, with a total population last year of 2,406,504, should cast 637,284 votes this year. The truth is the vote of this State, so far from being excessive, was not a full one.

SOME POINTS IN EARLY HISTORY.

In calling Dr. Storrs to account for some inexact statements regarding the early history of the Northwest the Sentinel does injustice to one of the notable men of that period and itself makes a misleading, if not erroneous, statement. Dr. Storrs is reported as saying before the American Historical Society:

> Dr. Manasseh Cutler, of Massachusetts, was one of the three commissioners appointed in 1787 to draft a suitable form of government and purchase land to open up the Ohio valley and the Northwest. There was finally purchased, mainly through his efforts, 5,000,000 acres, now covered by Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin, which was the greatest private contract made in this country up to that time. One of the most remarkable features of this purchase was the prohibition of slavery in the Northwest. Slavery then existed in many of the New England States, and how came it that the clause prohibiting slavery passed Congress? The scheme was so vast in itself and the form of government of such exemplary character that Congress became enthusiastic in its behalf. What politicians failed to carry out this New England minister brought about, and the great Northwest was opened.

Commenting on this the Sentinel says:

> The "form of government" was not drawn up by three commissioners. It was prepared by a congressional committee and adopted by Congress, and Mr. Cutler had very little to do with it. He managed the purchase of a tract of land lying entirely in Ohio. There is no evidence that he had anything to do with the anti-slavery clause in the ordinance, and the anti-slavery clause did not prohibit slavery in Northwest Territory. The ordinance was passed by politicians and the anti-slavery clause was put in largely for political reasons. Dr. Storrs ought to study the history of his country.

Dr. Storrs gets the historical facts somewhat mixed, but there is a large element of truth in what he says, and he comes nearer doing justice to Dr. Cutler than his critic does. Dr. Cutler was altogether a remarkable man, being distinguished as a minister, soldier, scientist, author, artist, educator, statesman and man of affairs. It is not true, as Dr. Storrs says, that he was one of three commissioners to draft a suitable form of government for a new settlement in the Northwest, but in 1786 he was elected one of three directors and the agent of "The Ohio Company" to purchase of Congress a large body of land in the Northwest which they proposed to colonize. This company was formed in Massachusetts and consisted of ex-officers of the revolutionary army. The preamble to its articles of association, adopted in Boston, March 3, 1786, says:

> The design of this association is to raise a fund in continental certificates for the sole purpose and to be appropriated to the entire use of purchasing lands in the western territory belonging to the United States, for the benefit of the Company, and to promote a settlement in that country.

The directors appointed one of their number, Dr. Cutler, to conduct the negotiation and make a contract with Congress for "a body of land in the Great Western Territory of the Union," and he went to New York for that purpose in June, 1787. He kept a diary of his trip and stay in New York and his negotiation with Congress, which has recently been published in full by some of his descendants in Ohio, with much other interesting matter. His negotiation resulted in the purchase by the Ohio Company of 1,000,000 acres of land and led to the planting of the first white colony in the Northwest, the settlement at Marietta, O. He went out with the first body of emigrants, removing his family from Massachusetts in a large wagon covered with black canvas, bearing the words, in white letters, "Ohio, for Marietta on the Muskingum." He was a great power in laying the earliest foundations of the State of Ohio, being an ardent supporter of freedom, religion and education. In 1795 he was tendered a commission as judge of the Supreme Court of the Ohio Territory, but declined it. Later he returned to Massachusetts and served in Congress from 1801 to 1805. His son, Ephraim Cutler, was a very notable man in the early history of Ohio; a grandson, William P. Cutler, represented the Marietta district in Congress many years, and others of his descendants have been distinguished.

Returning to Dr. Cutler's mission to New York and negotiation with Congress, it is a mistake to say that he "had very little to do" with the celebrated "Ordinance of 1787," which formed the first Constitution of the great Northwest. A plan of government for the territory was under discussion when he reached New York. In his journal above referred to he says:

> As Congress was now engaged in settling the form of government for the federal territory, for which a bill has been prepared and a copy sent to me, with leave to make remarks and propose amendments, which I had taken the liberty to remark upon and propose several amendments.

The unusual honor thus conferred upon Dr. Cutler was due partly to his high personal character, partly to the fact that he brought weighty letters of introduction, and partly to the fact that Congress was exceedingly anxious to sell Western lands and therefore to make the form of government acceptable to the company which Dr. Cutler represented. An entry in his journal a few days after the one above quoted says: "The amendments I proposed have all been made except one, and that is better qualified." The ordinance was passed by Congress while he was in New York. Its provisions regarding the encouragement of religion and education are known to have been inserted by him, and there is reason to believe the provision prohibiting slavery also was. He so informed a son of his who visited him a few years later while he was in Congress, and his descendants have other evidence that he was the author of the clause. It is as follows: "There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes, whereof the party shall have been fully convicted." The evidence in favor of Dr. Cutler's authorship of this provision is far more conclusive than that in favor of any other person. It has been claimed for Thomas Jefferson, but he was in France at the time and had been for some years. There is not a particle of evidence that Nathan Dane, who introduced the original draft of the ordinance, inserted this provision, and the fact that Dr. Cutler inserted the amendments regarding religion and education makes it almost certain that he also inserted the anti-slavery clause. Besides, there is his own statement above referred to.

The statement that the clause above quoted "did not prohibit slavery in Northwest Territory" is at least misleading. Its language is prohibitory and Daniel Webster said in one of his speeches in the debate on the Foote resolutions:

> That instrument (the ordinance) fixed forever the character of the population in the vast regions northwest of the Ohio by excluding from them involuntary servitude. It impressed on the soil itself, while it was yet a wilderness, an incapacity to bear up any other than free men. It laid the interdict against personal servitude in original compact, not only deeper than all local law, but deeper also than all local institutions.

Nearly all historians and statesmen have concurred in the opinion that the ordinance was intended to prohibit, and did in fact prohibit, slavery in the territory to which it applied, though it was many years before the institution became entirely extinct. Repeated efforts were made to have the ordinance repealed or to break it down, but they all failed. It withstood every attack and was finally embodied in all the State Constitutions. On that point Dr. Storrs is nearer right than the Sentinel.

THE CONCESSIONS OF SPAIN.

While the Cubans may not accept any compromise which the Madrid government may offer, the fact that concessions have been discussed by the Spanish Ministry has a far more important significance than appears on the surface. It is not generally known, but it is affirmed on good authority, that for the past year the Spanish premier has endeavored to bring the governments of Europe to his support in case of complications growing out of the Cuban insurrection with the United States. The fact that the head of the Spanish government is talking of compromise is evidence that the powers have not been influenced by his solicitations, but, on the other hand, have advised him to take a practical view of the situation in order to save some part of the sovereignty of Spain in Cuba. There are reasons to suppose that instead of the governments of Europe uniting to "warn" the United States, as was rumored ten days ago, they have warned Spain to make the most of the attitude of this government towards Cuban affairs while it continues friendly. European governments have nothing to gain in supporting Spain except so far as the influence that support may have upon their colonial policy. All the great powers of Europe have colonial possessions which are of immense consequence to them from a commercial point of view, consequently they would do nothing which would arouse in them a desire for independent government.

It is not possible that there is a government in Europe to-day which does not know that Spain cannot continue the contest in Cuba another year, for the reason that it has no money and cannot raise it. Its credit is gone. Its bonds would have no price on the market if additional obligations were offered. Such being the case, it were folly for Europe to encourage Spain to continue a war which requires $12,000,000 a month. The killing of Maceo is not such a victory as to give hope of the immediate suppression of the insurrection. If Pinar del Rio should be cleared of insurgents the much larger force of Gomez remains in the body of the island. Under such conditions compromise is all that is left to the Spanish government.

The insurgents have generally repelled every suggestion of compromise on the ground that the Spanish government violated its pledges regarding the government of Cuba when the last insurrection ended. If Maceo had lived it is not probable that the insurgents would have accepted anything less than independence, but with the death of the leader of the radicals, or the irreconcilables, there may be a different feeling. It is not impossible that the offer of home rule now under different leaders and conditions than existed a dozen years ago may be received by the insurgents if guarantees are given by Spain, and might have a marked effect upon the insurgents. Very naturally, they prefer independence, and even if formal offers of compromise should be made would be most likely to wait until after March 4 in the hope that a different policy may be adopted by McKinley. There is little doubt that the McKinley policy will be most conservative and that he will not be in haste, because he will assume that the questions affecting the welfare of the people of the United States are far more important than interfering with the conflict in Cuba—a policy which might and probably would interfere with the return of confidence and prosperity. But, whatever the Cubans may be led to do or whatever course Congress or the President may adopt, there is evidently but one course for bankrupt Spain to pursue, and that is to use all its influence and all the influence it has with other governments to induce the Cubans to accept the compromises which have been talked about the past week.

PRACTICAL PATRIOTISM.

Effective organization has been made by the veterans of the war and the women who are allied with them to teach the patriotism of the flag in the schools, and the love of and veneration for the emblem of national existence and authority by having the stars and stripes unfurled above the schoolhouses. Incalculable good has come from these efforts. Regard for the emblem of national authority will create a regard for law and its enforcement. In this and other cities courses of lectures have been aranged to teach the importance of good citizenship.

This good work will doubtless affect the next generation, but the addresses at the State Board of Commerce and the many reports of correspondents cause a suspicion that in the local management of public affairs there is need of what is called civic virtue and practical patriotism. Much allowance must be made for the exaggeration of these reports of loose and corrupt practices, but when the largest allowance is made there is reason to believe there is great need of a practical patriotism in the management of county, municipal and township affairs, and an absence of civic virtue. There is reason to fear that there is a sentimental patriotism for the flag which is forgotten when the same men are acting for the public. There is reason to fear that the expression of an official, "You are a fool to try to save money for the State," is too often the maxim upon which many officials act. Take one fact: for years attorney-general of Indiana have kept several agents traveling over the State inspecting the books of county officials to see what money which the laws require to be turned over to the State is held back. The further fact that the amount turned into the treasury by reason of such searchings has at times reached $175,000 a year shows either a lamentable ignorance or a disregard of law which is inconsistent with high-minded integrity and a regard for the oath of office. Attention has been called to the methods pursued by township trustees, as illustrated in the bills which they have made, indicating that those making them were intent chiefly on making a good thing out of it.

Doubtless custom has much to do with the evils which are complained of. Men make a canvass at some expense for a position, and because of this the custom of getting back the money expended or of rewarding, at the public expense, those who have assisted in getting the position has grown up. People are employed to attend to public affairs who would not be employed by the same men if it was their own business rather than of a community the inefficients are set about. Prices are paid for materials by officials in some cases which the same men would not pay out of their own pockets. Quantities are purchased which the same men would consider far in excess of the needs if purchased for private business. Such abuses are not general, but they are demoralizing. If one official of general good repute "feathers his nest" he is sure to be used as a precedent for others.

Just now public attention has been called to these matters; for that reason it is a good time to comment upon them. The remedy is in creating a public sentiment not so much against the abuses and the persons who are guilty of committing them as against the loose public feeling which permits the evils and the demoralization which they produce. What is needed is an enlightened and active sense of civic virtue—a patriotism which does not exhaust itself in talk of defending the flag in time of war, but which will make men good citizens and honest and conscientious in the discharge of public duties.

The figures of the loses by fire, month by month, during the years 1894, 1895 and 1896 are published, those of December last alone being estimated. The aggregate losses during 1895 were $128,246,400; during 1894, $129,839,700, and $115,295,500 during 1896. The losses the past year from June to December show a large falling off compared with the same months during the previous years, but the estimates for December are in excess of the losses of that month during the two preceding years. The loss by fire during these years is about equal to the receipts of the treasury for customs, and more than one-third of the receipts of all the railroads in the country after paying operating expenses. This is a large amount of money to charge off mainly to carelessness and recklessness.

There seems to have been a race between the little republics of Nicaragua and Colombia for the possession of Corn islands. For a long time they were not deemed worth claiming by any government, but in 1888 it was found that Great Britain was preparing to appropriate them, and Nicaragua made haste to annex them, raising the Nicaraguan flag with quite a show of ceremony. The islands are not of much value, but they have a fine harbor and are capable of being strongly fortified. As between Colombia and Nicaragua it makes no difference to the United States which owns them, but if Great Britain should attempt to get possession of them this government would have something to say, right quickly.

Pie and Pie-Eating and Making.

A Philadelphia woman has applied for a divorce, one ground of complaint against her husband being his refusal to permit her to eat pie. On one occasion when she had a particularly enticing and toothsome pie before her he snatched it away and cast it into the fire. The cause of his objection to the viand is not disclosed, and it is unfair to condemn him without considering some of the possibilities of the case. It may be that it was not pie itself but the lady's manner of partaking of the delicacy that offended him. If she took a wedge of it in her hand and began its consumption from the point, each mouthful showing a larger semi-circular indentation on the diminishing fragment, his ire was not without basis, particularly if it was a pie with a meringue, or a pie full of juices that oozed out upon the fair consumer's cheeks and chin. Or she may have chosen to eat her pie with a knife and so jarred upon his artistic sense. Or she may have indulged the feminine fancy for pastry by making it the chief part of her meal, which would account for the hasty snatching away if her husband saw dyspepsia looming threateningly in her path. Or he may have had an aversion for a particular variety of pie and not for all pie. If her favorite was the mysterious mince it may have been the subsequent nightmare that roused his rightful wrath. But if none of these surmises is correct; if he opposed pie as pie then his course is not to be upheld for a moment; he has not the thinnest crust to stand on. For pie is not a mere culinary concoction subject to the whim of the cook; it is not a fad that comes and goes; it is an institution. It is not certain that it came over in the Mayflower, but at least it was born soon after. Even if the first one was imported, or the mind that conceived it was foreign, it speedily became a distinctive American product. It may be true that it was responsible for the Salem witches and for the eccentricities of the early New Englanders, but at least they were our witches and the New Englanders were useful in their day. And what would a New England Thanksgiving day story be without pie, nay, many pies? For, in the typical tale of this sort the thrifty housewife makes her winter's supply before Thanksgiving and stores them away. The New England intellect was stimulated by pie, and Emerson, who ate it for breakfast, doubtless owes much of his profundity to his favorite compound of fruit and paste. It is true that there is pie and pie. There is the "sad" and soggy variety; there is the pale, clammy sort with underdone lower crust; there is the tough kind that only those most firmly addicted to the pie habit will attempt to consume, and there is the pie of light, flaky crust, and of well-flavored, toothsome interior, the pie that melts in your mouth and mitigates the gloom of life. This last is not the pie of commerce; it is the ideal pie, only occasionally attained in this vale of tears, but it is a pie whose character redeems the rest and gives force to the arguments of those who would resist the enemies of pie in general. If this is the kind of pie that the Philadelphia woman made and ate, or that she so much as aspired to, then she is justified in applying for a divorce. It will establish a sad precedent if the Philadelphia court which passes upon the case has a taste so vitiated by the local dainty "scrapple" that it does not see the need of vindicating the American pie from all direct or implied aspersions on its character.

While the plans for remodeling the fountains of the Soldiers' monument are being carried out it might be worth while to consider the advisability of adding some shrubbery to the final adornments of the base. There will be a grass plot at each corner of the monument's base, and there is no reason why groups of shrubs should not beautify these spaces. They will interfere in no way with the view of the structure and will relieve the monotony of the stonework and the pavement. **The reconstruction of the fountains and the narrowing of the present pavement will be a vast improvement on the barren waste of cement so trying to the eyes and the feet in summer and winter, but the embellishing of the sodded corners in the manner named would be a further improvement.** The same might be said of the Statehouse grounds, whose rectangular spaces might be greatly diversified and ornamented by a little landscape gardening. Custodian Griffin is a careful housekeeper and has taken excellent care of the grass, but is somewhat deficit in the artistic sense which finds pleasure in other things than unbroken meadow.

The Journal notes with pleasure the announcement by Copeland & Day, Boston publishers, of a forthcoming volume of poems by Miss Evaleen Stein. The book is to be one of the dainty "Oaten Stop" series issued by that firm, and will appear in the spring. Miss Stein has been a valued contributor to the Journal for some years, and her peculiar grace of thought and diction gave her rank from the first as a genuine poet of unusual gifts. It was inevitable that her audience should widen, and it is gratifying to know that her work is to have permanent form and in a setting so well fitted to its special charm.

The great interest which has been awakened in the subject of citizenship is indicated in the announcement of a course of lectures by home talent under the auspices of the McCulloch Club. There will be eight lectures which will be free to all pupils of the High School and the two highest grades in the grammar schools, and also to persons under twenty years of age who are not in any school. The first lecture in this course will be delivered next Saturday evening by Father Gavisk on "The Formation of the Constitution." The lectures will be delivered in Plymouth Church.

A story is going the rounds to the effect that some years ago Governor-elect Tanner, when a representative in Springfield, urged Miss English to marry him, but she replied with a promise to do so when he became Governor of Illinois. When he became State treasurer, he again pressed his suit and got the same promise. When he was elected Governor the lady of his choice kept her promise. Probably it was the hope of winning the lady which made him so persistent a candidate for Governor.

SCIENTIFIC.

Steels tempered in phenol have been found by M. Levat to have much greater hardness and elasticity than those tempered in water.

In a new French method thin nickel tubes are made by depositing nickel electrolytically on a matrix of fusible metal, then melting out the latter by immersion in a bath of boiling oil.

A proposed meteorological station, at about fourteen thousand feet, on Monte Rosa Italy, will rank as the fourth in height, among the twenty-seven mountain observatories of the world, the only higher ones being those of Arequipa, Mont Blanc and Pike's Peak.

The new military projectile of a French officer, made of paper incased in a thin shell of aluminium, is to be tried by the Austrian War Office. The inventor claims that a perfectly smooth wound is produced, and that if these bullets were substituted for the ordinary ones there would be quite as many men disabled, but a great reduction in the number of killed and fatally wounded.

The electric furnace is now being used at Charlottenburg, Germany, for the production of ammonia and nitrides. The nitrides result from exposing oxygen compounds of such elements as silicon, boron, magnesium, titanium and vanadium to the heat of a high tension current in the presence of free nitrogen and carbon. Treatment of the nitrides with steam gives ammonia and an oxide from which a nitride may be reformed as before.

The Walrand-Legenisel steel process, which has been adopted by quite a number of European firms and by one American establishment, is said to differ from the ordinary Bessemer process in the addition of ferro-silicon to the metal in the converter at the time of flame drop, and by an after-blow burning the silicon to a solid slag instead of carbon to a gas. As the melted metal is unusually fluid, it is especially suitable for steel castings, which are made solid and true to pattern.

British experience tends to show that there is no such thing as insusceptibility to vaccination. The public vaccinators of London and Reading report successful vaccinations in 88,875 and 14,030 cases, respectively, with no case in which the individual was vaccinated three times unsuccessfully. Yet not less than 1,983 certificates of insusceptibility were granted by medical men in England and Wales during the last year reported on, a fact probably due to the use by the physicians of stored lymph instead of that perfectly fresh.

A flying machine, designed to imitate bird flight, and somewhat similar in principle to that of the unfortunate Lilienthal, has been a subject of experiment by Herr A. Stentzel, of Altona. The wings have a spread of about seven yards, with a surface of eight and two-thirds square yards. They have a parabolic curve of one in twelve, and move through an angle of 70 degrees. The apparatus weighs seventy-five pounds. The engine is of special construction, using compressed carbonic acid, and yields one horse power with a pressure of five atmospheres and two to three horse power with seven to nine atmospheres. It is claimed that the machine cannot only fly, but that its speed can be varied at will.

In his presidential address to the Indiana Academy of Sciences Mr. A. W. Butler, the eminent ornithologist, declared that "at no time in the future will the changes in the aspects of nature be so noticeable, so incomprehensible because of their vastness, as have those of the century just closing." While this statement might be true of much of the United States, it was intended to apply to Indiana. The disappearance of the great forests, the extinction of the Indian and the large mammals have been accompanied by corresponding changes among the smaller animals. Especially conspicuous has been the passing of the passenger pigeons, which Indiana knows no longer, although in the days of Wilson and Audubon the sky was dark with them.

A simple musical instrument, capable of giving very pleasing results in the hands of good musicians, can be made from a number of bottles, say about twenty, containing different quantities of water. The height of the water is varied according to the pitch of the note to be obtained, and after a few trials, says M. G. Tissandier, it will be possible to reproduce all the notes and their octaves, including the sharps and flats. The tuning of the apparatus, however, requires a good musical ear. The bottles are suspended by the neck by means of strings from two broom handles resting upon the backs of two chairs or other convenient supports, and the sounds are produced by striking the bottles with two drum sticks or two rulers. This arrangement is suitable for airs in two parts, with two performers—one on each side—if desired.

The problem of color photograph, according to Prof. G. Lippmann, has had three solutions. The first is the incomplete one of Becquerel, who, in 1860, obtained good colored impressions of the solar spectrum and other objects on a plate coated with subchloride of silver, the incompleteness of the process being the lack of any means of fixing the colored pictures, which are retained only in the dark. The three-color method was invented in France in 1869 by M. Ch. Cros, and at the same time by M. Ducos du Hauron, although priority of idea has been claimed for a German. Three separate uncolored negatives of the object are taken through screens of different colors. From these three uncolored positives are made and differently colored to correspond with the color screens, and on superposition the three colored monochromatic positives give a colored picture of the model. In an improvement of the process by Prof. Joly the three pictures are obtained interwoven on a single plate. Though the colors are artificial, the approximation to the natural object can be made very close, and it is thought that the process has a great future before it. The inferential method, published by Professor Lippmann in 1891, is the third. For this is used a transparent, grainless photographic film of any kind, which is exposed in direct contact with a mirror of mercury, and on development in the ordinary way yields a picture appearing brilliantly colored by reflected light. Reflection of light through the film during exposure is the essential feature. **Each reflected ray is thrown back on the incident ray and interferes with its motion, the result being a set of standing waves surging up and down as the wave lengths vary in different parts of the image, causing the film to be affected in different planes or strata.** The distance between two successive strata is the distance between two neighboring waves, or exactly half the wave length of the impressing light. The developed film contains no pigment, but light reflected from it has colors corresponding in wave length to the intervals between the photographic strata. The principle is that of the iridescence of soap bubbles.

LITERARY NOTES.

Ruskin's favorite recreation is chess, and he devotes his evenings to it. Chess is also a favorite game with George Meredith.

The author of "The Heavenly Twins" has been working steadily on her new novel and has made considerable progress, but it is not expected to appear for another year.

Mr. Mackenzie Bell is preparing a memoir of Christina Rossitti, and is advertising for such fragments of her correspondence as may be adrift about the world. His address is No. 33 Carlton road, Putney, S. W., London.

The publication is announced of Wilson Barrett's great religious romance "The Sign of the Cross," founded upon his remarkable drama of the same name. In a personal letter to the author Mr. Gladstone says, "You seem to me to have rendered a great service to the best and holiest of all causes, the cause of Faith."

M. Got, the veteran comedian of the Theatre Francais, is said to be writing his reminiscences. Their title will be "Journal d'un Comedien;" but the doyen of the comedie has met too many well-known men of letters, artists, journalists, etc., for his recollections to be rigidly restricted to the "boards" and those that tread them.

Some of the orders for books sent to London publishers by country correspondents are highly amusing. One bookseller wrote for a work of "Harry Stockles" when he wanted something of Aristotle's; another, who wanted "Gaudemus," by Farmer, asked for "God aim us, by a Farmer," and a third sent a request for "Pharaoh's Life of Christ," when he wanted Dean Farrar's celebrated work.

It is perhaps not generally known that Miss Alice M. Longfellow, the eldest daughter of the poet Longfellow, is a writer of considerable power. It is to be regretted that she has not written more for publication. In the new edition of "Evangeline" issued for school use by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., in their Riverside Literature series, may be found an interesting sketch by her entitled "Longfellow in Home Life."

Some time ago, says the New York Tribune, it was said diffidently in some quarters that Mrs. Flora Steel would probably prove to be a serious rival of Mr. Kipling in the treatment of Indian life. Lately some English reviews have taken up the song, and we are told that "On the Face of the Waters" is a masterpiece, a novel in which the events of the time of the mutiny are handled with remarkable power. The American public will soon have a chance to judge for itself, as the book will be published here next month by the Macmillan Company.

Col. T. W. Higginson in his reminiscences in the January Atlantic speaks of an interesting coincidence. It was his habit to read late into the night, and sitting up till 4 o'clock one morning he left his bookmark at an unfinished page, having to return the book to the college library. A year later he happened to take the book from the library again, chanced to get up at 4 o'clock to read, and began again where he left off. Afterward looking in his diary he found that he had skipped a precise year between the two days and continued reading the same passage.

The reappearance of the authoress of "Ships that Pass in the Night" has been awaited with interest by the readers of that book; but Miss Harraden has chosen to remain silent in her Southern California retreat. It is fitting that the first fruits of this retirement should be a volume devoted to the charms and benefits of Southern California as a mecca for invalids. Together with Dr. William A. Edwards, Miss Harraden now puts forth a book entitled "Two Health-Seekers in Southern California." The combination of Dr. Edwards's scientific and special knowledge and Miss Harraden's delightful descriptive touch forms a volume of unusual value for health-seekers as well as the general reader.

SHREDS AND PATCHES.

Spain has enough trouble on her hands to organize a syndicate.—Washington Post.

It's never her real secrets that a woman puts down in her diary.—New York Press.

Some men have reason to be thankful that their neighbors let them live.—Syracuse Post.

You can't tell from the way a man speaks in prayer meeting how he speaks at home. —Syracuse Post.

Those who live but for the present lose the pleasures of both memory and hope.—Uncle Dick.

Tip—I hear old Snagsby left a cool million behind. Nip—How else could he keep it cool?—Truth.

Mrs. Flightly—They say the woman who deliberates is lost. Mr. Flightly—'Yes—probably extinct.—Truth.

It is no more possible to do without a wife than it is to dispense with eating and drinking.—Martin Luther.

A child said to a butterfly, "You live butaday." "But a day," said the butterfly, "is a lifetime."—E. S. O'Connor.

Ancient sculptors show Janus, the deity that watches over the new year, frequently on a bust.—Philadelphia Times.

Before beginning his lecture tour, Mr. Bryan erred in not becoming a writer of Scotch dialect stories.—Detroit Tribune.

Queen Lil is visiting Boston, which is good; for where is there a better place for has "beans?"—Philadelphia North American.

In China they behead counterfeiters, probably merely to make sure that they will never pass current again.—Chicago Post.

The widow always expects her second husband to live up to the motto on the headstone of her late lamented.—Adams Freeman.

Never critise your wife. She's a mighty poor woman and an anomaly if she is not a great deal better than you are.—Florida Times-Union.

There is no woman in the land so bad an arithmetician that she could not calculate how much her husband would save if he did not smoke.—Twinkles.

When a woman apologizes to company for a dinner it is a sure sign that she has taken extra care in preparing it.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

Two Eastern crooks are reported to have been swindling the pawnbrokers. Clearly, the real age of miracles is just swooping down on us.—Cleveland Leader.

Two men are in love with the same girl. Good! Now, it seems strange that they should quarrel with each other for being of the same mind. It is usually difference of opinion that invites conflict.—The American.

ABOUT PEOPLE AND THINGS.

In Turkey red hair is counted as a great beauty, and the women dye their hair that tint.

Physicians say that the habit of chewing gum produces wrinkles and deforms the face.

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Hinto, of Milwaukee, Wis., gave $50,000 to the Protestant Home for the Aged, in that city, on Christmas day.

The largest gold coin in existence is said to be the gold ingot, or "loof" of Annam, a flat, round piece, worth about $325, the value being written on it in India ink.

The London public are kicking up their heels over the fact that dining cars have been placed on the Midland Railroad in England. In this country people have dined as they rode for a great many years.

An estimate has been made from published statistics showing that of $500,000 spent in twenty of the leading libraries in this country a little over $170,000 was devoted to books, while other expenses consumed $285,000.

At a meeting of the Women's Rescue League of New York, held recently, a resolution was passed to the effect that "one Charles H. Parkhurst has done more harm to society than he can ever atone for during the period of his natural life."

Lovers of the drama will all deeply regret, says the Boston Transcript, that Ellen Terry, England's leading actress, and in spite of years the most charming one on the stage—the ideal Portia of our day—is so seriously ill that the day of her return to the stage must be set very far in the future.

The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol is reported as the latest cycling recruit is